



Morialta Vision

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From the Minister

Dear All

My last epistle was but a couple of weeks into my 'supply ministry' time with you. Since then I, and Gaynor too, have become more and more involved in the life of Morialta Uniting Church. So much so that I find myself with a small part in the forth-coming Melodrama, and Gaynor assisting as a prompt!

Worship continues to be one of my major focii and Gaynor has been able to assist with her leading the time with the young children. Most Sundays I've introduced a "new" hymn from an acquaintance in the USA, and a bit of 'tweaking' by me in the choosing of familiar tunes.

In pastoral care I have now begun a process of arranging to meet members in their own homes for a time of chatting and getting to know each other. It is my hope to try and work through the list of members and persons associated with the life of Morialta during my time with you.

Wednesday "Coffee Corner" is a great time for food and fellowship. The wonderful work done by those who work in the kitchen providing the meal, and the cleaning up, leads to a positive atmosphere in the area which greatly facilitates pastoral conversation. I have begun to develop some strong relationships with some of the attendees and one person saying she will make an extra effort to come to Sunday worship.

Friday evening "Gateways" study group is an exceptional time! The insight and contribution from those participating has "blown me away". In my 43 years of ministry I have not had the privilege to share in such a way. I find myself greatly blessed by the experience.



At the time of this writing our nation is being wracked by debate and anger concerning the decision of the government to send all asylum seekers to PNG. Strong words and opinions have been expressed by the UCA President, Rev Professor Andrew Dutney and our Assembly leaders, condemning the decision. The issue of refugees coming to Australia by boat and seeking asylum has proved a seemingly indissoluble problem for our nation for many years. Can I humbly suggest that you might like to consider this report www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2013/s3810322.htm as an aid to reflection? Of course I'm aware of the complexity and intricacies but, prayerfully, what is the response that is congruent with the teachings of Christ?


May Christ be with you as we all struggle to be faithful in difficult times.

Bruce G.

TODAY! **MEET THE CANDIDATES MORNING TEA**
 Sunday 25th August 11.00am - 12.30pm in the hall
 Your opportunity to meet candidates for the electorate of Sturt

Possible Partnership with the United Church in the Philippines
 proposed by Urban Mission Network - page 6

Community Garden Friendship Seat Unveiled
 Co-operative project with Morialta UC Men's Shed and Uniting Communities - page 3



Reflection from Church Council

God as a verb



I have friends and relatives who send me "inspirational" emails. You may get them too. It may be a prayer they have found on the internet, usually with the assurance that God is looking

after me. Perhaps some beautiful photos overwritten with text telling me that I can be sure God loves me because of these beautiful sunsets, or something similar. Some even tell me that if I forward the email on to five friends God will have a special blessing for me in the morning.

I don't forward them, but I do accept them graciously because I appreciate the loving motivation. They do however, raise a question in my mind. I wonder what image they have of God, how would they describe God. When I first asked myself this question a few years ago I had difficulty coming up with an honest answer that genuinely satisfied me. We have all heard descriptions over the years, many don't stand up to close scrutiny, some have become clichés, and to simply say that God is a mystery, while true, was not very satisfying either.

Then a while back I came across the suggestion that it might help to think of God as a verb, rather than a noun. At first that seemed a bit radical, perhaps even heretical, but the more I read and thought about it the more helpful the suggestion became.

Actually, this is not a new idea. It has a long and distinguished history. Many

thinkers and writers have expressed this concept in different ways over the years. The last 50 years has seen quite a bit written and said about it. Probably the most influential is the 1968 poem by Buckminster Fuller. Part of it goes like this:

*Here is God's purpose
for God, to me, it seems,
is a verb
not a noun,
proper or improper;
is the articulation
not the art, objective or subjective;
is loving, not the abstraction "love"
commanded or entreated;
is knowledge dynamic,
not legislative code,
not proclamation law.*

not academic dogma, not ecclesiastic canon.

Yes, God is a verb,

One current day teacher proposes the colourful description of God as "love hitting the cosmic fan". The indiscriminate, undeserved gift of love to all and sundry.

In centuries gone by Thomas Aquinas described God as "pure act"; Bonaventure as "self-diffusive love" and the medieval mystic Mechtilde of Magdeburg spoke about the "restless Godhead," an "overflow . . . which never stands still and always flows effortlessly and without ceasing . . .". Further back still the first Christians called themselves "The Way", a name that implies movement, action.

If you still have doubts about the validity of this suggestion, consider the Bible itself. The First Letter of John says that "God is love" (1 Jn 4:8). Not a being who loves, but love itself. Jesus often stressed to his followers that action had to be central to their being. "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you?" (Luke 6:46). Even Moses understood the idea of God as a verb when he told the Israelites he was sent by "I am what I am" (Exodus 3:14). In ancient Hebrew YHWH is a word without subject, the "I" is understood. That means it is just a verb, but another feature of Hebrew means it is a verb without tense. It could mean is, was, will be. God is complex, multi-faceted verb.

So, the more I think about it, the more attractive I find the idea. It lets me think about God, not as an omnipotent force, but as an ongoing action of creativity and caring. Not as a force who acts on the world through coercion, violence or the suspension of physics and free will. Instead, something that we participate in, an action we bring to the world to make love, justice, mercy, joy and goodness known. It means we can know God as a continually life-giving force at work in every one of us.

God is a verb that acts like Jesus; his words, his healing, his inclusive embrace of everyone. This is a 2000 year old movement of which we are the heirs and the stewards. Perhaps changing the image of God from noun to verb, from a being to a way of being, may change the church from entity to movement and perhaps change its relevance to the world.

Chris Ayles

THE LAST HURRAH

The last few details are falling into place, thanks to the hard work and dedication of a cast of thousands on and off the stage!



From the Chairperson

It seems that the theme of my article over recent months has been 'Change'.

I think that theme has a lot to offer Morialta at this time. Of course, the congregation is moving through a time of change that will impact us as a community and individuals. Welcoming a new minister is both exciting and challenging. We need to get used to them and they will begin to learn about us.

As well as the change occurring on a local level there is change on a wider perspective. 'Changing Landscapes' is a collection of three papers written for us all to consider. Over the next few years the profile of the Uniting Church in South Australia will change. Congregations that have struggled with Mission due to decreasing resources and increasing costs for upkeep may find it too difficult to continue.

'Changing Landscapes' challenges us to look into the future. It encourages congregations and individuals to imagine a future that may be different to the present we have and the past we may yearn for, but it reminds us that while the shape

of Mission may change the need to share the 'Good News of Christ' will not.

Out of around 50 participants in a series of discussions around 'Changing Landscapes', 10 were from Morialta. This, in itself, is an indication of our congregation's commitment to the future, but it points to further information and discussion being undertaken.

If you would like to learn more about 'Changing Landscapes' there are copies available in the Library. Alternatively, you may wish to download a copy from the web. I can advise you on accessing it.

Morialta is continuing to imagine its future. 'Beyond our walls' is a project that will affect us and impact on others as we explore ways of preparing and presenting Worship, through DVDs and later over the web, to congregations, individuals and other communities who don't have access to the resources present within our community.

Bruce Ind



COMMUNITY CENTRE NEWS

Community Garden Friendship Seat

Saturday 17th August was an exciting afternoon in the Community Garden as the garden community joined with people from the wider community to celebrate the unveiling of our new Friendship Seat, wind chimes and water dishes.



We are most grateful for the skillful hand of Bob Lloyd in making the friendship seat which encircles the Elm Tree where the garden community gather.

Uniting Communities staff, Vicki Mau and Michelle Krieg worked with residents of various Supported Residential Facilities to apply mosaic design to the seat and dishes, and to construct wind chimes to hang in the trees. The art project has been a wonderful blending of groups who have worked together to produce aesthetically pleasing functional items. It is anticipated that further cooperative ventures might ensue.



Life Plus is a new program starting in October. The aim is to bring people together in friendship as they listen to speakers, learn from presenters and enjoy entertainment. Four times per year we will hold sessions on four consecutive weeks, covering a health topic, a safety topic, a leisure activity and some form of entertainment.

The first group of four includes a man talking about his budgerigars, a presentation on financial and legal safety, and a talk about balance and fall prevention. The entertainment item is yet to be confirmed.

The program will take place on Wednesday afternoons 1:30 -3:00 and run alongside Friendship Club. A team of at least three people would make the program run smoothly by ensuring that visitors are warmly welcomed and catered for. For more detail or offers of help please contact me.



Christine Ostle

COMPASSION, POLITICS & REFUGEES

On Saturday, 6th July 2013 I attended a forum on compassion, refugees and why humanity matters in politics.

The panel consisted of former Liberal Party Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young and Adelaide advocate and refugee Marziya Mohammadi, and was moderated by Welcome to Australia National Director Brad Chilcott.



In introduction we were reminded by Brad that the current Australian situation seemed to be that of fear, prejudice and division.

When Malcolm Fraser spoke he called for us to stand up for decency and a fair go. I believe he was actually addressing 'the converted' as it were. Mr Fraser went on to say that "Australia's major political parties are engaged in a 'race to the bottom' using fear to fuel the debate over asylum seekers." 'The state of the political debate in Canberra is

wretched,' Mr Fraser said. 'There's been a race to the bottom of the barrel on refugee and asylum seeker issues. They seem to believe that who can get toughest will win most votes.'

Mr Fraser said the opposition's policy to turn back the boats would not work, and while recent talks between Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Indonesian authorities had made progress, the asylum seeker was a world-wide problem that required a global solution. 'Labor and Liberal talk as though Australia is the only target. It's not,' he said. 'We are a tiny part of a world problem.'

Sarah Hanson-Young spoke about the negative language that is used such as "illegals", "queue jumpers", and "boat people". She went on to say that these are people, with families and are refugees. When people talk of the numbers coming to Australia, we need to be reminded that there are 90,000 registered refugees in Malaysia!

Marziya Mohammadi, is a law student, a proud refugee and refugee advocate, and is passionate about human rights. She spoke about how horrible it was to watch TV reports and to feel that they don't want us in their country – we are a burden on their country. Why did they flee? It was fear that made them leave and want to run away from where it was not safe and come to Australia. They did not want to leave their country, their family and their friends.

Malcolm Fraser told us, "We don't understand in this country the damage that our stance is doing to us around the world." He also went on to say that the asylum seekers are here to invoke the protection of our borders, not deter them! We must give people a safer option.

"Our politicians speak as though we're the only target, everyone's trying to come here," he said. "We are a tiny part of a world problem and other countries seem to manage to handle it with a bit more compassion, with a bit more decency than we do."

But he said everyone who had come to Australia as a migrant or refugee should take an interest in the issue and resist the temptation to "stay under the radar". "Staying under the radar on this issue is not good enough for anyone," he said. "It's an issue for everyone."

Sarah Hanson-Young's last words to us were: "This is not a time to lose heart or be discouraged, but to have compassion and care."

I'm glad I attended that forum where there was so much good will and warmth.

David Purling

WALK TOGETHER

On Saturday 27th June our folks joined with members of other churches, and with Moslems and Hindu friends, in support of refugees, walking along North Terrace under the banner of the South Australian Council of Churches—*Churches Together for Justice and Peace*. Further information is available on the Welcome to Australia website www.welcometoaustralia.org.au.



FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

Gospel

"Lord, teach us to pray " (Luke 11:1)

Our Father

who always stands with the weak, the powerless, the poor, the abandoned, the sick, the aged, the very young, the unborn, and those who, by victim of circumstance, bear the heat of the day

who are in heaven

where everything will be reversed, where the first will be last and the last will be first, but where all will be well and every manner of being will be well

hallowed be your name

may we always acknowledge your holiness, respecting that your ways are not our ways, your standards are not our standards. May the reverence we give your name pull us out of the selfishness that prevents us from seeing the pain of our neighbor

Your kingdom come

help us to create a world where, beyond our own needs and hurts, we will do justice, love tenderly, and walk humbly with you and each other

Your will be done

open our freedom to let you in so that the complete mutuality that characterises your life might flow through our veins and thus the life that we help generate may radiate your equal love for all and your special love for the poor

on earth as in heaven

may the work of our hands, the temples and structures we build in this world, reflect the temple and the structure of your glory so that the joy, graciousness, tenderness, and justice of heaven will show forth within all of our structure on earth

Give

life and love to us and help us to see always everything as gift. Help us to know that nothing comes to us by right and that we must give because we have been given to

us

the truly plural us. Give not just to our own but to everyone, including those who are very different than the narrow us. Give your gifts to all of us equally

this day

not tomorrow. Do not let us push things off into some indefinite future so that we can continue to live justified lives in the face of injustice because we can make good excuses for our inactivity

our daily bread

so that each person in the world may have enough food, enough clean water, enough clean air, adequate health care, and sufficient access to education so as to have the sustenance for a healthy life. Teach us to give from our sustenance and not just from our surplus

and forgive us our trespasses

forgive us our blindness towards our neighbour, our self-preoccupation, our racism, our sexism, and our incurable propensity to worry only about ourselves and our own. Forgive us our capacity to watch the evening news and do nothing about it

as we forgive those who trespass against us

help us to forgive those who victimize us. Help us to mellow out in spirit, to not grow bitter with age, to forgive the imperfect parents and systems that wounded, cursed, and ignored us

and do not put us to the test

do not judge us only by whether we have fed the hungry, given clothing to the naked, visited the sick, or tried to mend the systems that victimized the poor. Spare us this test for none of us can stand before your gospel scrutiny. Give us, instead, more days to mend our ways, our selfishness, and our systems

but deliver us from evil

that is, from the blindness that lets us continue to participate in anonymous systems within which we need not see who gets less as we get more.

Amen.

From *Ecumenism: Reflections & News* 23 July 2013



CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION: Possible partnership with United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP)

Reverend Christa Megaw writes:

'Inspiring, 'Important' and 'Integrated' are all words from comments that I've heard recently, commenting on the community development work of our partner church, the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP).

Rev. Andrew Tiver, a Uniting Church minister who has been assisting with this work in North Luzon for the last 3 years, has been visiting Adelaide with his family. Last Sunday, a large number of people gathered at Morialta Uniting Church to hear Andy talk about some of the issues of concern in the Philippines including extrajudicial killings and large scale mining with little concern for the local people and the environment.

The Presbytery of South Australia has had an active partnership with the UCCP – North Luzon Jurisdiction for 21 years. Many of our Moderators and groups from the Uniting Church in South Australia have developed friendships with people in our partner church over this time.



The Middle Luzon Jurisdiction, a densely populated area including Manila, was formed only two years ago, and incorporates some of the North Luzon area. The Uniting Church in South Australia has been invited to consider forming a partnership with this new jurisdiction.

The process began by considering whether the Urban Mission Network (UMN) might do this, and so recently a small group of people from the UMN visited this area. After discussing this issue, we now believe it best to form the relationship with the whole Presbytery.

Within this, the Urban Mission Network and particularly Pilgrim Uniting Church are intending to be key players.

The proposal to form this new partnership with the United Church of Christ in the Philippines - Middle Luzon Jurisdiction

will be put forward at our next Presbytery/ Synod meeting at the end of October.

If you'd like to comment or provide feedback or would like more information, please contact:

Christa: International Mission Officer
MRSA, ph 8236 4203 email
cmegaw@sa.uca.org.au

Christine: Coordinator, Urban Mission Network, ph 8332 8339 email
christine@urbannetwork.org.au

From Christine Secombe, who travelled with John in the small group from Adelaide.



The pictures shown as the seminar got underway were from the visit to Smokey Mountain, opened in Tondo in 1998 as a dumpsite for metropolitan Manila. This was one of the places our little group of five visited as part of the itinerary developed for us by the Bishops of the Middle Luzon Jurisdiction of the UCCP.

The dumpsite is the poorest area in urban Manila. An estimated 1,700 families live here. They are informal settlers from the provinces with little or no education and money who have come to try their luck in the city.

Working and living conditions here are harsh. Methane gas from the decomposing garbage is all around as is smoke from making charcoal, and flies.

The lack of human dignity in scrounging through the rubbish to make a living affected me but the most heart wrenching experience was when a little child reached his arms out to me and I had to turn and walk away.

The United Church in the Philippines adopted this Smokey Mountain community in 2007. The goal is to serve the poorest of the poor children by giving them free education. The focus is a kindergarten program – the UCCP Tondo Sunbeam Day Care Centre. The school

provides free education plus school supplies, textbooks, two sets of uniforms, shoes and a meal every school day.

Some of you have heard me say that I'd thought I was ready for this exposure tour in the Philippines. But my life's experience had not prepared me for this and my assumptions were way off beam.

A Day Care Centre – I'd thought preschool and four year olds. I learnt that for children as old as eight this is their first school and education experience.



And I had a question - why would children be provided with two sets of uniforms and shoes for a six month enrolment? Looking around, the answer was obvious – so many of the littlies we saw were wearing only a T-shirt. A uniform at least provides something decent to wear.

Being with these people, right amongst the way they are living, completely assailed all my senses and emotions. I could walk away, hop under the shower, wash the dirt, the grime, the smell right off my body and my clothes. But these people, these places just won't go away – they've found a place in my head and my heart.

And I'm still figuring out how I will respond

From the Urban Mission Network Bulletin



MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2013

**Lesley Tideman**

Lesley is a natural leader and organiser. She is a big picture person, always thinking outside the square. In all that she undertakes she is organised and committed, thorough in planning and co-opting assistance.

From 1991, Lesley was instrumental in formalising and expanding the community interface programs at Morialta. During this period until 1998, she established our highly successful Coffee Corner lunch (now entering its 22nd year), and a Community Classes program in which she gave instruction in both sewing and cookery. Innovative for the time, Lesley developed specialised cooking classes such as 'Cooking on a Budget' and 'Cookery for Men.' Establishing networks with local government and other community care agencies was also key to the strong foundations laid at that time.

Within the Church community, Lesley has also contributed generously of her time, energy and skills. She has headed up large scale catering events, such as those associated with our Music Halls, and has baked thousands of scones on Mighty Magill Market days. The 'Gateways' group for Christian study, discussion and reflection has been energised from its inception by Lesley's enthusiasm. Following a successful grant application to the State UCA Synod, Lesley was instrumental in overseeing and developing the Book Bank program that encouraged groups across denominations to study contemporary theological commentary and other texts focusing on life meaning.

**Peter Thornley**

Peter has quietly gone about contributing an enormous amount in giving time and energy to whatever task requires his impressive skill-set.

Since the establishment of our Workshop in 1999, Peter has input to its day to day management, its Occupational Health and Safety requirements and its various projects. He has mentored and taught many in woodworking skills. With many pieces of equipment demanding skill, understanding and very great care in their use, we have

been hugely blessed to have Peter's experience and oversight.

When it comes to undertaking any practical task, Peter's benchmark is perfection. Witness the many cupboards installed in the south end of the hall or in the KUCA rooms, the extensive tiling in the KUCA toilets, the rolling drawers installed in the kitchen. To enumerate the extent of Peter's contribution would be almost impossible. He undertakes tasks from the mighty to the menial without fuss. His modelling of high standards in all that he does has been both instructive and inspiring.

At the meeting of the congregation on 4 August, Lesley and Peter were each presented with A Members of Parliament Volunteer Award Certificate. We, along with the local Federal Member for Sturt, the Honorable Christopher Pyne, extend our thanks and gratitude to Lesley and Peter, for all that they have done, and continue to do for our community.

Alison Lockett

"FREEDOM" AND "BAD FAITH" - A CHALLENGE

The famous philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre once wrote that we are "condemned to freedom". For Sartre this meant that we are responsible beings. However we are not merely responsible for the decisions we make. In addition to this he drew out how we are also responsible for the decisions we postpone or fail to act on.

This means that we are not only responsible for what we do, but also for what we don't do.

There is then no way to escape the feeling of regret except through fully embracing this experience of freedom. For if we don't act on something we can regret not doing so, if we delay an act we can regret not acting sooner and if we act straight away we can regret that too. Decide on something, or not, act or don't, speak or stay silent: we are responsible for them all.

For Sartre it is common for us to try and escape the weight of this responsibility. In describing how this happens he once related a small incident he witnessed while watching a couple sitting across from one another. As he glanced over he noticed the man reach across the table and take hold of the woman's hand (a sign of his desires). In return the woman neither pulled her hand away (that would send a clear sign that she was not interested in his advances), nor did she grip his hand (which would have signaled her acceptance of the advance). Instead she allowed her hand to lie limp in his. He called this desire to become passive passengers in life "bad faith." Bad faith being the attempt to flee our responsibility in the hope that we might not have to bear the yoke of our freedom.

Yet Sartre's point is that this attempt to flee freedom is just another manifestation of freedom. It is simply a futile attempt to deny it.

Instead of the impotent and impossible attempt to flee our freedom Sartre encouraged us to face it, embrace it and make resolute decisions in light of it.

The choice for him was not between taking responsibility or not, but rather between acknowledging our inherent responsibility or attempting to deny it.

So what do our current actions or inactions as a church say about our relation to freedom? And what might we do differently if we were to fully embrace our responsibility?

Bruce Grindlay

NEWS OF GAULIM, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

On 9 September 2012, on Mission Sunday, Rev Nita West shared news of the Papua New Guinea Gaulim Teacher Training College. This congregation valued the opportunity to hear and to contribute to its support.

Just recently Jenny Charlesworth, known and loved by many at Morialta, wrote an article for Dernancourt UC and we are pleased to be able to share this recent information about Gaulim.



Gaulim's Amazing Facelift

New houses erected, more staff houses renovated, library extended, construction of the chapel continuing, tanks and pump installed for water supply ...and the list goes on and on. When I read the 26 page report which we have just received from the principal of the Teachers College, Siegeru Woda, I am absolutely amazed. When Siegeru visited Dernancourt in 2011 this was all just a dream and there was no finance to turn the dream into a reality. On more than one occasion prior to 2011 the PNG Department of Education had threatened to close the College due to poor administration and the badly run-down buildings. Then in 2011 Siegeru was appointed as principal. He came to Brisbane to undertake a course in business administration and it was while he was there that he came to visit us at Dernancourt. On his return, in order to turn what seemed like an impossible dream into a reality, he set about trying to get financial grants from within PNG and overseas.

He writes, "I admit it is a huge challenge to take a lot of risks in moving the college from such a mess, but I am always strengthened when there are people who have the same motivation and enthusiasm. I have known much criticism and many huge challenges, but it is only God's grace that I lean on." He acknowledges Dernancourt's support, "I would like to make special mention and thanks for your prayers silent thoughts and financial support to assist me with my administration since 2011. God has shown favour and enabled the College to attract attention in political circles and international agencies that are keen to give a hand to support the development of the College. To God be the glory." His testimony is an example of what Rev Bill Service talked about in his sermon on 22/7/33 when he said, "It is in the risky impossible that God profoundly meets us". Despite his daunting task Siegeru has gone on to access funds from the European Union, PNG Dept. of Education the UC in PNG, and UC in Australia through Ausaid.



What has impressed me most has been the level of involvement by staff, students and the local community. Students from a nearby UC Vocational school helped with the re-roofing and made new tables and seats for the mess, male staff and students built a new male toilet block and laundry, and tiles have been laid on the floor of the refurbished mess where four new gas stoves have been installed. Under the supervision of Siegeru's wife who teaches Agriculture, large food gardens have been planted, and some of the casual labour comes from local church congregations. When the redevelopment is complete they will become the second largest church-agency primary teachers college in PNG. (I think there are 11 primary teachers colleges, only three of which are government run.)

When Dernancourt first made contact with Gaulim Teachers College, we had no idea of their predicament. Although at times there were communication problems due to a lack of internet access, it has been a privilege to journey with the College at this exciting time. There is still much to be done: 8 houses to be renovated at an average cost of \$A33,000 per house *when funds become available*, so the more we can raise the more we will help them to achieve their mission to "produce Christlike teachers who are committed to serving God's people and bring about a fair and just society."

J Charlesworth



RECENT HAPPENINGS AT FELLOWSHIP



The Fellowship Group were honoured to have David and Judith Purling share their family's experiences in adopting their two, now adult, Vietnamese children.



Early Christmas preparations were under way in Fellowship's card making session, introduced by Arlene Lomman.



In August, Fellowship heard speaker Colleen Bradke, talk on her experiences while working for Magill and Cadell Remand Centres.



GRATEFULNESS

After reading theologian Brian McLaren's chapter 'Happiness of Appreciation' in his book, 'Naked Spirituality', with members of Gateways I returned home grateful that I could be grateful. How difficult it must be to be grateful when one is hungry or permanently disabled.

On re-reading his text I found he has three warnings worthy for inclusion in our lives. Firstly he says, The more one has the more one needs to practice gratitude. That on reflection makes me think of TV advertising which offers a cosier life for the more one has.

Secondly, he writes, Appreciate what you have got. Yesterday my mobile 'phone was a luxury. Today I feel it is a necessity. I feel lost if it is not in my pocket. Tomorrow, could it be an addiction?

Thirdly, McLaren warns, Take more for granted and we learn that ingratitude leads to unhappiness.

So, I have come to realize it is not easy for me to be grateful - but it does bring that warm feeling of happiness.

Arthur Tideman

FOR REFLECTION

- People are often unreasonable, illogical, and self-centered;
- Forgive them anyway.
- If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;
- Be kind anyway.
- If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;
- Succeed anyway.
- If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;
- Be honest and frank anyway.
- What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;
- Build anyway.
- If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;
- Be happy anyway.
- The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;
- Do good anyway.
- Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;
- Give the world the best you've got anyway.
- You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;
- It was never between you and them anyway.

By Mother Teresa, engraved on the wall of her home for the children of Calcutta, India

Paws for thought ...

I have really tried to prepare Wallace and Bruce to work as a team. I regularly counsel Wallace. He is very enthusiastic and keen to please, however, he does get tired.

At the beginning of the Football Season I sat him down and explained what he would need to do when he and Bruce went to AAMI Stadium. I mean, it's not too difficult. Just get out of the car, put on the footy stuff and walk him to his seat. If he is lucky there may even be the occasional chip. I told him that all he would need to do was to sleep until the game ended.

Pretty simple, I hear you say. Apparently not. I have heard Bruce telling a couple of people lately that Wallace has really let me down. Instead of having a rest he gets up at half time and tries to put pressure on Bruce to leave.

I know that the Crows aren't doing so well this year as when I went, but there is no way that Bruce would leave before the final siren. I guess that I will need to do some more work with Wallace before next year.



Hope he doesn't get up too often during the services!

Keely

BAPTISM

On Sunday 28th July, Sethius Ian Forrest, son of Alan and Laura, was baptized by Reverend Bruce Grindlay.

The Morialta church family was privileged to share in this baptism with the family, who have long connections and warm relationships with Bruce and Gaynor.

A further celebration over morning tea gave opportunity for conversation, sharing - and exceptionally good cake!



THE FLYING PADRE



Welcome back Ray and Margaret Clogg!

On their travels Margaret and Ray Clogg were treated to a great 'free' fish BBQ on their last night in Karumba where they met Garry Hardingham, "The Flying Padre". There was entertainment to conclude the evening with Garry contributing. His parish covers 625,000 square kilometres - quite sizeable! They were able to chat to him afterwards and hear some of his very interesting stories about life in the outback, and also to capture him with his little Cessna.



Morialta Magpie



Happy 18th Birthday to Lachlan Mackenzie



Happy 80th Birthdays to Margaret Pittman and Marie Elson



Happy Birthday to Barbara Wittenberg



Happy 75th Birthday to Rhonda Wake



Happy Birthday to Brian Corrigan and Jan Schroeder



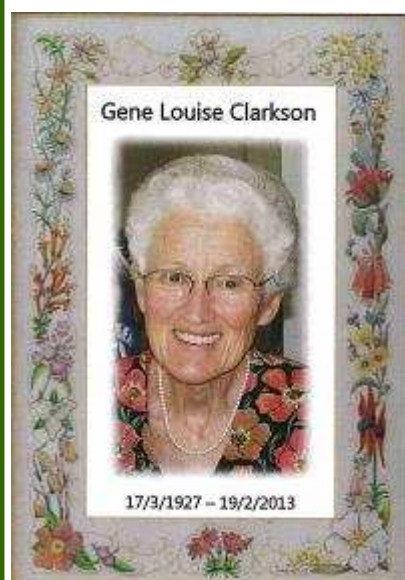
Happy Birthday Margaret Peckham



Morialta Community Programs Tai Chi 10th Birthday Celebration on Monday 22 July 2013. Who would have thought we would achieve this milestone? And we keep slowly growing. Fun and fellowship are the order of the day!



Congratulations to Jessica Major for her Third Prize and Highly Commended awards in the Adelaide Eisteddfod.



Gene Louise Clarkson

17/3/1927 – 19/2/2013

Gene Clarkson, sister of Dorothy Mills, grew up in the Magill Methodist Church. She was active in Comrades and all aspects of music, having completed a degree. Gene went to Fiji in 1951 to serve in mission for three years and met her husband-to-be Colin, an industrial chemist. On returning home they were married and in the following years raised a family of three children, Richard, Peter (deceased) and Elizabeth. When the family had grown, Gene and Colin went to the Solomon Islands to work again in missions, this time for ten years.

Gene was a talented embroiderer, artist, calligrapher, knitter, seamstress and jam maker. She taught piano, art and craft, and was an excellent pianist, organist, accompanist, choir member and classical music connoisseur. She embroidered the front cover of Morialta's 150th Anniversary record book.

Gene Clarkson is lovingly remembered as being always interested in others, a faithful friend and a lover of chats.

Thank you, Dorothy.

A JOYFUL PRAYER

Joyful God,

Today may we choose joy.

May we choose joy over frustration.

May we look to find that which is worth celebrating in our lives.

May we focus on the positives that they may eclipse the negatives.

In the midst of clouds of sadness which we may be experiencing,

may the rays of the light of your love break through to bring us a glimpse of hope.

May we be thankful for the people in our lives.

May we appreciate the love and care that others offer to us.

May we seek more than our own happiness, but find delight and meaning in gifting others with what we can.

God, who takes joy in us, we pray these things in the name of Christ

Amen

Downloaded from Uniting Change website

THE PLACE OF RELIGION IN PUBLIC POLICY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

While the Christian Church has always spoken out on issues of social justice and equality, there has also been debate about how we should be involved (if at all) in the development of social policy and social development. To provide us with more information and understanding of the issues, the Social Justice Mission Ministry Team are keen to promote the visit of **Dr Chris Barker** to Adelaide.

Dr Chris Barker is Director of Research for the William Temple Foundation, Director of the Centre for Faiths and Public Policy and Senior Lecturer in Urban and Public Theology at the University of Chester. He is a leading researcher and published author in the field of religion and public life with a focus on the hybrid nature of urban communities and the role of religion in public policy and social welfare.

Dr Barker will be a guest speaker at the National Urban Mission Conference, from 24th – 26th September at Pilgrim UC.

The conference program begins at 10.00am on Tuesday 24th and concludes at 4.00pm on Thursday 26th. Morning sessions will explore the big picture; including the changing character of post-secular urban locations and the implications this has for the church's ministry. These sessions will include discussion

about the hybrid and pluralist nature of urban places and how congregations are responding to this changing context through their mission practices and theological insights. Afternoon sessions, the practicum, will draw on insights from effective community development practices. CDPs are an important medium for congregations as they engage and form partnerships with their host communities.

If you cannot attend the Conference you can hear Dr Barker speak at an ecumenical event to be held at Pilgrim UC in the city, starting at 10.00am on Friday 27th September. The title of his talk will be "**The Place of Religion in Public Policy and Social Development**".

Information about the Conference can be found on the Urban Network Website www.urbannetwork.org.au and information for the Ecumenical Event on 27th can be found on the SACC Website sacc@picknowl.com.au

You can also speak to a member of the Social Justice Mission Ministry Team for more details and assistance in attending both events.

Social Justice Mission Ministry Team

Message to Uniting Church SA from Uniting Communities



CHANGES AT GOODWILL

Goodwill has played an important role in the history and life of Uniting Communities for over 60 years. It provides vital income for Uniting Communities' present and future work. It also plays an important role in connecting us to local people and communities.

You will likely be aware that the retail sector has been experiencing some tough times recently. This downturn together with cheap clothing imports driven by the strength of the Australia dollar has placed significant pressure on second-hand retail outlets such as Goodwill. At the same time a decline in donations has impacted on the viability of Goodwill.

Over its history Goodwill has faced many such challenges and has needed to adapt and change its operations accordingly. Now is no different.

To ensure that we can retain operating our Goodwill stores we have needed to look at how to cost effectively manage the collection and processing of donated goods. After examining a range of options the Uniting Communities' Board has agreed to establish a relationship with another major South Australian charity, Orana. This arrangement will see Orana, which has extensive experience and expertise in manufacturing and processing, take on the responsibility of donated goods collection, processing and distribution to our Goodwill stores. This is a relationship which will benefit both Orana and Uniting Communities and will allow us to continue trading to the public through our Goodwill stores.

Although this is a positive outcome in terms of maintaining our Goodwill retail operations the decision to engage Orana will have a significant impact on our warehouse and the staff who currently work there. We will be closing down the warehouse to enable Orana to pick up these operations. Some staff will be able to join Orana, and we will work with other staff to provide support in their transition to future alternative work. I would like to acknowledge the impact this decision has on those involved and their families. It has been a difficult decision but in order to maintain operating our retail stores it has been necessary to forge these new arrangements with Orana.

At the same time we believe the new relationship with Orana will be mutually beneficial for both organisations and in time help to restore Goodwill as an activity which generates income for Uniting Communities' vital services and programs.

Simon Schrapel | Chief Executive

Rev Peter McDonald

June 2013

At Morialta you can continue to show your support for Goodwill by bringing your donations to our Goodwill bin under the Pepper tree in the car park.

RUGS GALORE!

Through the winter months warm rugs with brilliant patterns continue to be knitted for those in need of winter warming. Another fifteen are ready to be delivered, and our knitters keep working!



LIBRARY BOOK SALE

This is always a surprising collection in which many people like to rummage, remember, and take home for a range of reasons: nostalgia, area of interest, something they've wondered about, one from an author they've enjoyed reading.....etc. And the beauty of the purchase is that it requires only a donation to the collection container. This year the success of the Sale came to more than \$113 – which will be very happily spent on new acquisitions!



CRAFT STALL

A Shoppers' delight with its colourful winter scarves, bags, jewelry, pretty but functional clothes hangers, ...and much more. All are produced by the skill, flair and interest of Morialta folk and are a source of much interest from those who come in for activities during the week. Many a quickly needed gift has been found on the stall! And - in the last few months this has earned over \$800. If you would like to contribute items for sale, talk with Carole or Helena.

Welcome to the Morialta Uniting Church Community Library

Writing Competition

We're having another writing competition!

Write about something that happened in your life (a slice of life) in approximately 100 words, in a genre of your choice. If music is chosen as the genre it needs to include words.

Closing date – entries should be placed in the box marked "Slices of Life" Writing Competition in the Library by Sunday 29 September.

Winning entries will be published in the October Vision and other entries displayed on the Library notice board during October.

Prizes - \$25 Book Voucher for the best adult and the best child entries.

Library High Tea

On Sunday 13th October from 5.00 to 7.00pm enjoy our very popular fundraising event, "Slices of Life and High Tea".

Tickets on sale from Sunday 13 September.

Cost \$10.00 Adults \$5.00 Children

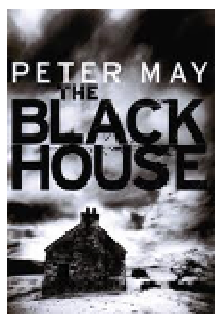
Bring along and share something you have read (prose or poetry) which has made a difference to your life, and any memorabilia to share.

Our guest speaker will be Jan Rawolle from Blackwood UC, who will recite various poems which have been important to her over the years.

Share High Tea including soup, savoury slice, special slices of cake and tea or coffee.

WHAT'S NEW - AUGUST BOOK REVIEWS

THE BLACK HOUSE by Peter May



The first of a trilogy to be set in the Scottish archipelago, the Outer Hebrides, this novel has won several literary awards.

Scottish author Peter May has had a varied career based in journalism and writing drama series for television, before taking up full time writing – his novels have been widely published around the world.

The story is set on the Isle of Lewis, a land of harsh beauty, with inhabitants of deep rooted faith. Detective Fin Macleod is sent from Edinburgh to investigate a brutal murder on the island. For Lewis-born Macleod, the case represents not only a journey home, but a voyage into his past.

This is a gripping murder mystery, and the reader is also drawn intensely into the local environment and deep seated customs of the people who live on the island.

Reviewed by Jill Kerr

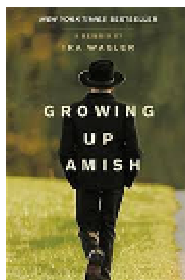
GROWING UP AMISH A Memoir by Ira Wagler

Ira passed through a troubled decade during his late teens and early twenties, experiencing restlessness, depression, guilt, until finally leaving his upbringing in the Old Order Amish.

This community, comprising mainly of farming families, is simple, ordered and restricting to a boy of Ira's temperament.

In the book Ira bravely reveals his struggles to break away during those years.

Reviewed by Jenny Barabas



NON-FICTION

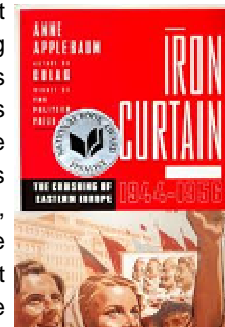
IRON CURTAIN by Anne Applebaum

The Crushing of Eastern Europe 1944-1956

Applebaum has obviously put intensive research into this confronting and absorbing history, but has sympathetically included many stories of individual people's experience. Life was hazardous under Stalin's Communist Russian totalitarianism, toward the end of and after the Second World War. The Communist aim was to completely replace European cultures by a police state in which all social organizations and industries were owned by the state: no Scouts or Sunday Schools for instance! The Communist enslavement was obviously failing before Stalin's death in 1953 and rapidly collapsed subsequently.

The human spirit triumphed.

Reviewed by Bryan Forbes



DVD REVIEW

'AND THEN SHE FOUND ME'

Helen Hunt, always an accomplished actress, impressively directs this film, a complicated story of how bad decisions impact on lives, altering outcomes, even sometimes good, often bewildering. Bette Midler is feisty and irrepressible and delivers her usual witty performance and the two boys, Matt Broderick as the ex-husband and Colin Firth as the New Relationship, are entirely believable.

A nice movie for a cold winter's afternoon.

Reviewed by Jenny Barabas

FOR FURTHER BOOK REVIEWS GO TO <http://www.morialtauca.org.au/resources/library/whats-new>

National Update August 2013

Selections from the August edition of the National Update.

From the President

Rev. Professor Andrew Dutney

ABC Religion and Ethics:

What would Bonhoeffer do, Mr Rudd?

“Hoisted on his own petard.” That phrase has kept coming to mind as I’ve followed the announcement, explanation and implementation of the so-called “PNG Solution”.

In 2006, then-Shadow Minister for Foreign Affairs Kevin Rudd wrote an article for The Monthly entitled “Faith in Politics”. It was about the role of the churches and individual Christians in politics. His purpose was to critique the “privatized, pietised and politically compliant Christianity” of the televangelists and to challenge “those who would seek today to traduce Christianity by turning it into the political handmaiden of the conservative political establishment. To read more go to www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2013/07/26/3811617.htm



Farewell Rosemary Young

Frontier Services has said farewell to National Director Rosemary Young, after 18 years extending John Flynn’s “mantle of safety” over inland Australia.

Rosemary joined Frontier Services as Community Services Manager in 1995, before taking up the National Director’s role in 1999. Under her leadership Frontier Services has expanded its ministry and community services, making an enormous difference in the lives of tens of thousands of Australians living in remote and regional areas. The profile of Frontier Services is higher than ever after last year’s successful celebrations to mark the centenary of the Australian Inland Mission.

Uniting Church in Australia Assembly president Rev Professor Andrew Dutney paid tribute to Rosemary Young’s work.

“God has blessed us with Rosemary’s wonderful service across three decades and across the length and breadth of Australia,” said Rev Professor Andrew Dutney.

“Frontier Services and the Uniting Church in Australia are united in their gratitude and admiration of Rosemary’s passion for mission and her many achievements for remote and regional Australia.”

“Rosemary Young’s name will stand alongside John Flynn, Fred McKay and others as church leaders who have dedicated their lives to the care – both physical and pastoral – of their fellow Australians.”

The road ahead for Frontier Services

The Uniting Church Assembly and Frontier Services are proud to announce that former Assembly President and long-time champion of Frontier Services, Rev Gregor Henderson, has been confirmed as the new Chairperson on the Frontier Services board.



Justice and Advocacy

From Rev Elenie Poulos,
National Director,
UnitingJustice

A Just Society: your faith, your voice, your vote

With an election around the corner, it is important to stay informed on the issues that are important to our faith.

That’s one of the reasons why the federal election resource – A Just Society – is so important. It is an expression of our faith as Christians and citizens of this country, and our commitment to share with all Australians in the search for meaning, purpose and community in life. To read more, go to www.assembly.uca.org.au/national-update/item/1431-national-update-august-2013#justice

The resource which has been distributed to Synod offices throughout Australia, includes materials prepared by various Assembly and Synod agencies and Uniting Church members. It features a Booklet (with a preface from President Rev. Prof. Andrew Dutney), website with longer and more detailed Issues Papers, a series of Hot Issues Briefs, and an Election Toolkit which covers how to organize an election forum, ideas for active citizenship and prayers for use in worship in the weeks leading up to the election.

All of the resources are available online and the website has now been updated with a variety of prayers for your congregation or faith community.

The Booklet and the Hot Issues Briefs, a wonderful resource, is available in the Morialta Community Library and is displayed in the hall foyer.

ABC Religion and Ethics:

When it comes to Asylum Seeker Politics, Love Drives out Fear

When Prime Minister Kevin Rudd announced that Australia would not process or resettle any asylum seekers who arrive in Australian territory by boat, our coddles, massaged and well-fed fear of asylum seekers found what turned out to be its penultimate conclusion. One can only pray that we can’t sink any further into the abyss on this matter than the Coalition’s shockingly misnamed “Operation Sovereign Borders. Read more at

www.abc.net.au/religion/articles/2013/07/31/3815550.htm

Speaking Truth to Power about Asylum Seekers

National Director of UnitingJustice Australia, Rev. Elenie Poulos, and members of the Uniting Church who work with asylum seekers, have spoken out during a Federal Government caucus meeting in the Sydney suburb of Balmain. To see statements made, go to

www.assembly.uca.org.au/national-update/item/1431-national-update-august-2013#justice



DIARY DATES 2013

Sun 25 Aug 11.00am	Election Forum organised by Social Justice Team
Sun 25 Aug 5.00pm	Pot Luck Tea
Fri 30, Sat 31 Aug 6.30 for 7.00pm	Morialta Melodrama— <i>The last Hurrah</i>
Sun 8 Sept 9.30am	Mission Sunday Worship Rev Christa Megaw
Sun 29 Sept 9.30am	Social Justice Sunday Worship
Sun 29 September 5.00pm	Pot Luck Tea
Sun 13 Oct 5.00 - 7.00pm	<i>Slices of Life and High Tea</i> Library Event
Thurs - Sat 31 Oct - 1 Nov	Presbytery and Synod Meeting
Thurs - Wed 7 - 13 Nov	<i>Beyond the Blue Lake</i> Tour
Sat 16 Nov 9.00am - 3.00pm	Mighty Magill Christmas Market

Morialta Uniting Church

26 Chapel Street
MAGILL SA 5072
Phone: 8331 9344
Fax: 8331 3300

Minister in Supply:
Rev Bruce Grindlay

Email: office@morialtauca.org.au
Web: www.morialtauca.org.au



COMMUNITY Day
Uniting Church. Uniting People.

Morialta's event this year is the
Melodrama
THE LAST HURRAH

Acknowledgments

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To discuss ideas for Vision articles contact the editor, Mary Thornley

Living Streams ~ Giving Life